

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1-15 (Cancelled)

16. (Currently amended) A method of ameliorating treating a human subject suffering loss of photoreceptor function in a vertebrate eye, said method comprising: administering an effective amount of an opsin-binding synthetic retinoid in a pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle to a ~~vertebrate eye comprising a mutant opsin protein having a reduced affinity for 11-cis-retinal, wherein the mutant opsin protein is stabilized and~~ human subject, expressing a mutant opsin protein with a substitution of Proline 23 by Histidine (P23H mutant opsin protein), to treat loss of photoreceptor function in said subject is ameliorated.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the opsin-binding synthetic retinoid is orally administered to a vertebrate.

18. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the opsin-binding synthetic retinoid is locally administered to a vertebrate.

19. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the opsin-binding synthetic retinoid comprises a synthetic retinoid of formula I, II, III, IV, V, VI, VII, VIII, IX, X, XI, XII, or XIII.

20. (Previously presented) The method of claim 19, wherein the opsin-binding synthetic retinoid is a 9-cis-7 ring retinal or an 11-cis-7 ring retinal.

21. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein the synthetic retinoid is cycloheptatrienylidene 11-cis-locked retinal or cycloheptatrienylidene 9-cis-locked retinal.

22-34. (Cancelled)

35. (Previously presented) The method of claim 18, wherein the opsin-binding synthetic retinoid is locally administered by eye drops.

36. (Previously presented) The method of claim 18, wherein the opsin-binding synthetic retinoid is locally administered by intraocular injection.

37. (Previously presented) The method of claim 18, wherein the opsin-binding synthetic retinoid is locally administered by periocular injection.

38. (Previously presented) The method of claim 16, wherein the opsin-binding synthetic retinoid is an 11-cis-7-ring retinal.

39. (Previously presented) The method of claim 16, wherein an 11-cis-7-ring retinal is orally administered to a vertebrate.

40. (Previously presented) The method of claim 16, wherein an 11-cis-7-ring retinal is locally administered to a vertebrate.

41. (Previously presented) The method of claim 40, wherein an 11-cis-7-ring retinal is locally administered by eye drops.

42. (Previously presented) The method of claim 40, wherein an 11-cis-7-ring retinal is locally administered by intraocular injection.

43. (Previously presented) The method of claim 40, wherein an 11-cis-7-ring retinal is locally administered by periocular injection.

44. (Cancelled)

45. (Currently amended) The method of claim 16, wherein ~~the loss of photoreceptor function is due to said subject is suffering from~~ retinitis pigmentosa.

46. (Cancelled)

47. (New) The method of claim 16, wherein the opsin-binding synthetic retinoid is a derivative of 11-cis-retinal or 9-cis-retinal, wherein said derivative comprises the 20 carbon backbone of said 11-cis-retinal or 9-cis-retinal.

48. (New) The method of claim 16, wherein the opsin-binding synthetic retinoid is an acyclic derivative of 11-cis-retinal or 9-cis-retinal, wherein said acyclic derivative comprises the 20 carbon atoms of said 11-cis-retinal or 9-cis-retinal.